

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00202 201039Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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UNCLAS USBERLIN 0202

3.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB
SUBJECT: GOVERNING MAYOR' ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ON JAN. 19, GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ HELD HIS ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE. IN OPENING STATEMENT, HE STRESSED, INTER ALIA, CONCERN OF SENAT OVER RECENT GDR MEASURES TO ABOLISH "STEP BY STEP" FOUR POWER STATUS OF CITY. SHUETZ SAID HE WAS AFRAID 1977 MIGHT BECOME YEAR OF SERIOUS STRUGGLE FOR PRESERVATION OF STATUS OF BERLIN. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH NO ONE ON WESTERN SIDE WAS INTERESTED IN INCREASING TENSIONS, GDR MEASURES COULD NOT BE IGNORED. SHUETZ SAID RECENT PROTEST OF THREE WESTERN POWERS IN MOSCOW WAS "ADEQUATE AND CORRECT". HE WARNED, HOWEVER, AGAINST REPLYING TO UNILATERAL MEASURES OF GDR BY UNILATERAL COUNTERMEASURES. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REJECTED ANY CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE IN PROCEDURE FOR TAKING OVER FEDERAL LAWS IN WEST BERLIN BECUASE PRESENT PROCEDURE WAS "THE BEST POSSIBLE METHOD."

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2. SCHUETZ REFUSED TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE EFFEVTs OF ANY NEW GDR POLITICAL LINE ON PENDING POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF CITY, BUT CONFINED HIMSELF TO REMARK THAT IN SPITE OF "COLD SNAP FROM THE EAST", TALKS ON FRONAU TRIANGEL ("ENTENSCHNABEL"), SPANDAU LOCK, AND TELTOW CANAL COULD STILL BE BROUGHT TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. SCHUETZ SAW NO REASON WHY HIS PLANNED VISIT TO SOVIET

UNION COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. WHILE SUCH A VISIT, IN SCHUETZ' WORDS, "NECESSARY AND CORRECT", THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO AVOID UNPLEASANTNESS.

3. SCHUETZ WAS ASKED ABOUT RECENT REFUSALS OF NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO SOUGHT TO ENTER EAST BERLIN (USBER 181). HE SAID HE WASN'T ALARMED BY THEM AND DID NOT BELIEVE THAT GDR HAD INSTITUTED BAN ON ADMISSION OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE.

4. SCHUETZ WAS ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE PRINCIPAL COMMUNAL PROBLEMS FACING BERLIN IN 1977. HE REPLIED THAT THEY WERE ASSURING ENERGY SUPPLY FOR 1980'S AND ATTRACTING MORE CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

5. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON WHETHER SENAT WOULD INVITE PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT BERLIN, SCHUETZ SAID THAT ALL INVITATIONS TO FOREIGN LEADERS FELL WITHIN COMPETENCE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN BONN. DAVIS

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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